

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 H-02 SSM-05
SIG-02 SSO-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
INRE-00 /088 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:RUNDELAND:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. COLLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

-----015903 010031Z /62

O 302320Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
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USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 153157

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 30

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 30,
1977:

Q. THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENT ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST THAT MAY-
BE IT WOULD BE BEST IF EVERYBODY KEEP QUIET FOR TWO OR
THREE WEEKS NOW RAISES A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE
MONDAY STATEMENT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN ERROR.

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A. I HAVE NOWHERE SEEN SUCH AN INDICATION, NOR HAVE I
HEARD IT.

Q. WAS THE MONDAY STATEMENT INITIATED HERE OR AT THE
WHITE HOUSE, DO YOU KNOW?

A. THE MONDAY STATEMENT WAS THE PRODUCT OF THIS ADMINIS-
TRATION.

Q. WAS IT DRAFTED HERE?

A. THE STATEMENT ORIGINALLY COMES FROM THIS BUILDING,
BUT THERE WERE MANY PARTICIPANTS IN ITS FINAL FORM.

Q. DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU DIDN'T THINK THE PRESIDENT HAD
SEEN IT THE WAY IT WAS READ HERE?

A. IN ITS FINAL FORM. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE FINAL
FORM THAT WAS READ HERE WAS SEEN BY THE PRESIDENT.

Q. BUT HE WAS AWARE THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WAS GOING TO BE
READ?

A. THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY IF THE QUESTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST AROSE THAT THE RESPONSE MIGHT BE OFFERED, YES.

Q. DO YOU WELCOME THE STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ON THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND?

A. WELL, I HAVE SEEN THAT STATEMENT -- WHICH IS A STATEMENT OF VIEWS OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS. IT'S NOT A STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES POLICY. WHAT OUR POLICY IS ON THAT SUBJECT WAS STATED MOST RECENTLY BY THE VICE PRESIDENT IN A SPEECH IN SAN FRANCISCO ON JUNE 17. BEYOND THAT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE EUROPEAN STATEMENT.

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Q. EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI HAS STATED IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE WASHINGTON STAR THAT APPEARS TODAY -- AND I'VE JUST SEEN IT -- THAT WE ARE CLOSER TO A WAR THAN TO A PEACE. DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS ASSESSMENT?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON MR. FAHMI'S STATEMENT.

Q. IS THERE ANY INSTRUCTION OR GUIDANCE OR WHATEVER GIVEN TO THE BUREAUCRACY NOT TO COMMENT, NOT TO MAKE STATEMENTS, NOT TO TALK ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST UNTIL JULY 19?

A. I DON'T THINK THAT THERE IS SOME INTERDICT ON ANY DISCUSSION. I THINK THAT, AS THE PRESIDENT SAID, SINCE WE HAVE IN EVERY WAY ON ALL SIDES NOW PRETTY THOROUGHLY AIRED WHAT OUR PUBLIC POSITIONS ARE, THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL NOT TO GO INTO ANY FURTHER TEXTUAL ANALYSIS UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF MR. BEGIN. I WOULD THINK THAT THAT WOULD BE A HEALTHY REMINDER THAT UNLESS WE HAVE SOMETHING NEW TO SAY THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH POINT TO CONTINUING TO SEE WHETHER WE CAN TORTURE WHAT WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST INTO SOME NEW SHAPE.

Q. WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID THEN WOULD BE TAKEN AS GUIDANCE?

A. I ALWAYS FOLLOW WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID. IT'S TO BE TAKEN AS GUIDANCE FOR THIS ADMINISTRATION, YES. DID YOU HEAR THAT, SIR? (LAUGHTER)

Q. ARE YOUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST DIFFERENT THAN YOUR PRIVATE THOUGHTS ABOUT IT?

A. I BELIEVE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S -- THE ADMINIS-
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TRATION'S VIEWS WHICH ARE PUBLICLY STATED ARE CONSISTENT
WITH ITS PRIVATE VIEWS. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT, I KNOW
THAT.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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